

WILLIAM FORD AND ELIZA  
ANN GURR FORD

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William Ford was born February 16, 1858, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, son of Martin Ford Sr. and Zibiah Meriba Stoker, pioneers of Utah in 1862. He married Eliza Ann Gurr on November 22, 1892, the marriage being later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. Eliza was the daughter of James Enoch Gurr and Margaret Maria Davis and was born December 3, 1868, at Midway, Utah. William died at his home May 19, 1941, and Eliza Ann died at her home November 17, 1956. Both are buried in Wallsburg Cemetery.

William was only four years old when he came with his parents across the plains, and the only mishap the Ford family had was during the middle of their journey, when he was riding with his feet hanging over the front end-gate of the wagon. The front wheels went into a ditch, throwing William out and down between the horses in such a way that one of the front wheels ran over his finger, cutting it open. It later healed. After they arrived they lived in Provo a long time. Later the family moved to Round Valley and homesteaded.

William and his brother John owned a ranch on the Green River, near what was then called Blake. But due to the activities of outlaws who were traveling through that country, rounding up their cattle and driving them off, they became discouraged and

homesick. They gave up their ranch and, bringing what cattle they had left, returned to Wallsburg.

William was a strong, robust young man. A stockman and farmer, he prided himself in raising a good grade of Hereford cattle. He loved the good earth and the wide-open range and owned one of the best farms in the valley. William was a musician, playing the violin for dances and singing in the Church choir when a young man.

In 1903 he was appointed to the office of road supervisor. He was a board member of the Wallsburg Cattle Assn. many years and a board member on the Main and Hobbie Creek Irrigation Companies. He was president of the town board four years, and president of the Wallsburg school board 12 years, serving faithfully and effectively until the Wallsburg School consolidated with the rest of the county. He also served as president of the Republican party.

William was a carpenter and maker of coffins, which were works of art and strongly built. Eliza helped trim the coffins and made burial clothes. He never charged for his work and many times he has furnished the lumber to make the coffins and the boxes to put them in. He also furnished some of the bricks to make the vaults. These he would also help lay. At one time he had sufficient bricks to build a brick home, but instead of for a home, a great many were used for vaults in the cemetery.

William and Eliza Ann loved this little valley of Wallsburg, with its fertile soil and high towering mountains, and its people, who were all their friends. They lived here all their married lives.

Eliza Ann was a lovely and gracious lady and a devoted helpmate to her husband, always carrying her full share of the load. She was a comfort and an inspiration to her family. She was active in Church and social activities and was known for her hospitality, and was loved by all who knew her.

Their children: Leone, Myrtle, William Dewey, Gertrude, Parley Albert and Earl.

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